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COVID-19 costs county \$42,500 so far

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Haliburton County councillors will have a mid-year budget review to assess the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the county's finances.

The county is tracking its COVID-19-related costs, and as of April 15, they totalled more than \$42,500. About three quarters of those expenses come in the form of increased wage and benefits payments, as well as medical equipment purchases, within the county's ambulance service. Other expenses include costs associated with IT, as well as the purchase of cleaning supplies, gloves, departmental data overages, etc.

During an April 22 council meeting, held via online conferencing platform Zoom and broadcast on the county's YouTube channel, Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy said he'd like to get a picture of what the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis are going to do to the county's bottom line.

"I think it's a time to reassess our priorities," Kennedy said, adding that perhaps there might be opportunities to redirect provincial funding to cover COVID-19 costs, and suggesting that some county projects would have to be deferred based on the size of the

see YEAR page 3



Earth Day

Quinn and Cohen Carpenter pick up garbage on County Road 121 last week to do their part on Earth Day. /Photo submitted

HHHS increases long-term care precautions

by JENN WATT
Editor

Haliburton Highlands Health Services moved to seal its long-term care units from the adjoining hospital facilities in both

Minden and Haliburton last week, creating additional protection for the residents and staff.

Temporary walls, separate entrances, break rooms and change rooms have been added and work flows changed so that staff and essential visitors are not moving between the

distinct sections of the building.

"All of this work – and it has been a considerable amount – has been done in an effort to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 from the emergency and acute

see CONTINUE page 4



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COVID-19

Coronavirus

COVID-19 testing crucial in months to come

by JENN WATT
Editor

All seven of those who were confirmed to have had the coronavirus in Haliburton County are no longer infected with the virus, news that led to celebratory posts on social media over the weekend and affirms the importance of physical distancing and hand hygiene to help keep numbers of confirmed cases low.

Dr. Norm Bottum of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team said it's important that people continue to observe public health protocols and not become complacent about the virus.

"Everything's great and everything's isolated now [in Haliburton County], but as we start to open up our economy, Haliburton being a tourist destination, we're going to have cases coming and going," Bottum said.

It will be important that people not dismiss

their symptoms, assuming it is a cold or flu, and make an appointment to be tested.

Though there may be people with COVID-19 in the community who haven't been diagnosed with the virus, as of Tuesday there were no new cases in the county reported by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit.

"Our assessment centre is still running. We're still seeing patients regularly, people coming in with symptoms. The swabs are coming back negative," Bottum said.

Positive COVID-19 case numbers are listed under the health unit of the infected person's primary residence, which has led to speculation in Haliburton County that there may be people testing positive for the virus and living at their secondary residence, without their numbers being registered with the HKPR District Health Unit.

"There may be people who have active cases who are isolating at their cottages we

don't know about because they get screened in Toronto and are told to isolate, and they [could say] 'well I'm going to go to my cottage for two weeks to isolate,' so we don't know that because they don't come into our stats," he said.

Bottum said while it is possible there are currently cottagers with positive cases out there, he's not aware of them.

"Well, they might be, but they're not coming to our hospitals, they're not coming to our office, they're not coming to our assessment centre," he said.

Overall, Bottum said Haliburton County and the rest of Ontario has been doing well in its efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19.

"Things are good. Again, this is step 1 ... mitigating the curve. All of Ontario's done a great job of mitigating the curve. We've been unfortunate with our long-term care facilities, but as far as overcrowding ICUs and overusing ventilators and exposing a lot of

health-care workers to the coronavirus, it's actually been quite good compared to a lot of other areas," he said.

However, with the warmer weather coming and the prospect of more people heading north to their cottages, people will need to continue to be careful.

"We're going to have to be diligent and that's where our testing capacity is really important, so we can pick cases up early," Bottum said, "because we know people might spread the virus for a day or two before they become sick. So if you become sick on Tuesday, we're going to want to know what your movements were Sunday, Monday and perhaps notify people or put people on alert."

As of Tuesday, April 28, there were 158 cases of COVID-19 in the HKPR District Health Unit region, 115 cases are deemed "resolved." Thirty-two deaths have been recorded from the virus, none of those was in Haliburton County.

Council talks COVID-19 communications

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Haliburton County councillors discussed what kinds of communications should be issued by the upper-tier of the county in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic during an April 22 meeting.

It had been more than a month since county councillors convened after regular meetings were suspended amid the pandemic. Councillors took part in Wednesday's meeting remotely using the digital teleconferencing platform Zoom, with the meeting broadcast on the county's YouTube channel.

It had been the suggestion of Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt that some kind of joint statement regarding the COVID-19 crisis be issued by the county's four townships. County council is comprised of the mayors and deputy mayors of each of the four municipalities.

"Given how things are changing every day, it's just hard to say exactly what that statement might be right now," said Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Daniels. "... But I still think it's a good idea to think about putting forward a message from us all, done in way that the public can see us all, and hear a consistent message from us."

The county's townships have been issuing press releases and other messaging regarding closures, cancellations, tax deadline extensions and other changes resulting from the coronavirus outbreak. There's been some criticism in the community that the townships don't appear to be working together enough.

"The nature of our individual municipalities calls for us to do different things, but I think there's some thinking that we're not working together, and I'd like to dispel that," Daniels said, adding there are ongoing discussions not just between politicians, but also township staff.

"I've asked twice for the mayors to be able to do something together," said Moffatt. "In this situation, we do have individual needs in our communities, but we are working together, but there are some challenges."

Moffatt said she'd suggested the concept of a joint statement via online conferencing



Haliburton County council held a meeting April 22 via online teleconferencing platform Zoom, with the meeting broadcast via the county's YouTube channel. Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton and Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall (not pictured) joined by telephone. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

platform Zoom, whereby the public could see and hear the mayors. Like Daniels, Moffatt said the four townships are working more closely together than she believes many residents realize.

"There's a little bit of silo going on, but there's far less silo going on than the general public believes," Moffatt said. "... There is definitely the perception of a fragmented approach, and I think we can do, quite easily, a good job of fixing that."

Moffatt also said that when the pandemic is over and things are back to normal or "new normal," she'd like to see a fulsome review of countywide communications during the crisis, "and how we can do a different job going forward of big events or incidents, should they happen again, hopefully they don't."

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts said she thought the county and its lower-tiers were doing a fine job when it came to communications during the crisis.

"I think all the lower-tier townships and the county have been doing an excellent job of communicating out how COVID has affected us in our normal services," Roberts said. "... I also know that our CAOs [chief administrative officers] have been talking on a regular basis to make sure they're in touch, and I actually think we've been doing a very good job. I think we have to make sure we don't

overstep our responsibilities, and we know what municipal services that we're responsible for, and not wade in on the things that we're not responsible for."

Minden Hills Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell said she supported the idea of some kind of joint video statement from the mayors.

"I agree that I think something should go out sooner than later from all of the mayors," Schell said. "I like the idea of a Zoom meeting. I'm getting a lot of feedback from people saying they're not hearing enough. Again, you can put stuff out there, but you can't make people read it, correct? But perhaps some kind of video, I think maybe people would be more engaged with something like that. I don't see the harm in it."

Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton said he was supportive of some kind of joint message, but wondered if a Zoom message might end up constituting a formal meeting under the Municipal Act.

"I'm not sure ... there was some concern that it may constitute a meeting," Burton said.

"If there's no decisions being made specifically, you're just agreeing on a joint statement, I don't believe that you've got an issue like that," Daniels said.

"I think that's something that we can work on," Daniels said of the joint statement

concept. "I still think that we need to do a more streamlined communications, or we need to have a better communications plan going forward overall when we're in circumstances like this."

"So what are we missing?" said Roberts. "What message isn't getting out there?"

Danielsen said she could think of two examples where there had been a lot of outcry from the public, both negative and positive.

"One was specific to the issue of people demanding that we tell people, don't come to the county, and I think we could have done a better job of messaging with that," Daniels said. "I've never been prepared to say, don't come to the county, personally. Rather, I would like to say that people need to think very carefully before they do that, and there are certain things they need to think about if they are going to come here."

Danielsen noted the issue of boat launches and whether or not they are to be closed has also been somewhat convoluted.

"There have been an awful lot of grey areas in some of the orders that have come down [from the province]," she said, "and we're all trying to weed our way through exactly what's intended."

Moffatt said that while meetings between staff members, emergency operations groups and so forth are ongoing, she still felt the mayors needed to communicate more directly with residents.

"We are the faces and the voices of our community," she said. "The community is frightened, the community is nervous, the community is confused, and I think that we need to be out there as a group to say that we are working hard, that we support the community."

"It's just letting people know that we are aligned, we are informed, we are paying attention and that we care, we are knowledgeable and that we're providing leadership to the community," Moffatt said. "I think that's what people are looking for, from all of us, as a front."

Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin said he agreed with the video concept and would be happy to see that go forward.

Danielsen suggested a draft of a statement be sent to council members, and that the logistics of the execution could be figured out after that.

Year to be 'anything but typical'

from page 1

financial impact.

Chief administrative officer Mike Rutter said staff would be preparing a mid-year report assessing the situation.

"I whole-heartedly agree with Councillor Kennedy and I would say that even if we needed a supplemental [review] at the end of the third quarter . . . this year is going to be anything but typical," said Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin. "And if we could have some more details quarterly, or bi-annual reporting, during the course or the balance of the year, I think that our opinions on some matters might have changed, and what our voting public thinks we should or shouldn't be doing in 2020 might be modified."

"I agree as well," said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt, "We've been talking a little bit about recovery and as the community's recovering . . . it could require a realignment of expenditures and projects and priorities because of what the government, the provincial government, may roll out in terms of recovery and we don't know what our commitments may or should be, for some time. I agree that it's a wise move just to re-assess."

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To ensure important information is accessible to the community during the coronavirus pandemic, for a limited time, the Minden Times will send out FREE e-editions of our newspaper.

Please email our circulation manager Debbie Comer, debbie@haliburtonpress.com with your email address and name.

Boat launches remain open in AH

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Following a confusing sequence of events, the Township of Algonquin Highlands has clarified that its boat launches remain open to the public.

An April 17 press release issued by the township indicated that amid the COVID-19 crisis, boat launches were closed to all but necessary transport to year-round residences. This information was subsequently published in the April 22 edition of the *Minden Times*.

Temporary signage with the same message was also posted at some boat launches, but removed a day later.

"Last week, temporary signage with incorrect language was mistakenly put up at some AH boat launches and although those signs were removed within 24 hours, that erroneous message was widely shared," reads an April 23 press release from the township.

"This is a challenging time for everyone, including municipalities," reads the release, which goes on to apologize for the confusion. "Of the many operational issues facing the township, the matters of boat launches and water access properties have proven the most confusing – and frustrating. Substantial time has been spent seeking clarity from the province and

from the OPP."

Residents using boat launches are asked to use COVID-19 safety protocols.

"New signs are coming that will remind users [that] appropriate COVID-19 related protocols remain in place," the release reads. The township will continue to monitor the situation.

“

Temporary signage with incorrect language was mistakenly put up at some AH boat launches and although those signs were removed within 24 hours, that erroneous message was widely shared.

— TOWNSHIP OF ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS

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Jump in your lake for the food bank

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

The president of the Balsam Lake Association is challenging area lakefront residents to "join" him this Saturday afternoon, and take a plunge into their lakes to raise money for charitable causes.

Dean Michel and wife Jennifer Bacon will be jumping off their Balsam Lake dock this Saturday, May 2 at 2 p.m., after raising funds for the Coboconk and Area Food Bank and other local charitable organizations.

As food bank demand increased amid the COVID-19 crisis, Michel pledged he'd jump in the water if he was able to raise \$500 for the food bank. If they reached \$1,000, the couple

pledged that Bacon would join him.

"It's gone crazy," Michel told the *Times*, noting to other organizations in addition to the food bank.

Almost a dozen individuals and families have signed up to take the challenge on Saturday, and Michel is extending that challenge to Haliburton County, asking residents to gather donations for the county's food banks or any local charity they'd like to support and jump in their lake.

A YouTube video explaining the challenge can be found at <https://youtu.be/eXoA9Yb-djc> and Michel can be reached at 416-889-2963, or dean@century21granite.com.

Any readers who partake in the challenge are encouraged to send a picture to the *Times* by emailing chad@haliburtonpress.com.

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DISCLAIMER

The information provided on this page is considered current and valid as of May 1, 2020.

While the Township of Minden Hills works diligently to provide the public with the most current information regarding service provisions and reductions during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are aware that, due to the rapidly evolving nature of outbreak, information can, and may, change on a daily basis. The public is strongly encouraged to refer our website at www.mindenhills.ca for current and up-to-date information. Anyone unable to access the website can call 705-286-1260 or email admin@mindenhills.ca for assistance.

PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT PLAN

Preauthorized payment plan withdrawals will continue as originally scheduled. Ten (10) month plan payments will be deducted on the last business day of each month. The installment plan payments will be withdrawn on **May 22nd, 2020**.

Post-dated cheques on file will also be deposited on the dates as indicated on the cheques. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your preauthorized payment plan or post-dated cheques, please call 705-286-1260, extension 201.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL #ENV 20-04 FURNITURE AND BULKY ITEM DISPOSAL

The Township is accepting bids from qualified Respondents for transport and processing services to remove materials from the Scotch Line site for recycling or final disposal off-site.

The deadline for submissions is May 8, 2020 by 12:00 noon.

Visit mindenhills.ca/tenders to view all requirements and submission instructions for this tender.

TAX DUE DATE EXTENSION

The tax due date for the 1st installment of the 2020 interim tax billing is **extended to May 29, 2020**, without penalty or interest. The tax due date for the 2nd installment of the 2020 interim tax billing is **extended to June 26, 2020**, without penalty or interest.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

As a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, all Council and Committee of the Whole meetings will be conducted virtually via web conference; and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice.

During this unprecedented time, the health and safety of our community is of paramount importance. Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process.

Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

TOWNSHIP SERVICE PROVISION REDUCTIONS

A reminder that all Township facilities remain closed to the public, until further notice. Administrative call answering services will remain available between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday to Friday, 705-286-1260 listen carefully to the full message and follow the message prompts or admin@mindenhills.ca.

Please provide your name, contact information (phone and/or email) and a clear and brief message regarding the reason for your call.

The public can be assured that essential services will be maintained as much as possible.

We are asking the public to restrict inquiries to Township priority requests only and please understand that it may take longer to reply to messages as Staff handle increased phone and email inquiries.

We are also asking the public for their patience during this time and to observe our request to contact the Township for municipal related inquiries by the following methods only:

Telephone: 705-286-1260 listen carefully to the full message and follow the message prompts
Email: admin@mindenhills.ca

Please do not call or email the various Departments or their related extensions or submit inquiries through the Minden Hills website Contact Us form.

If you are aware of anyone who is not adhering to the Government's order which prohibits organized public events and social gatherings of more than five (5) people, or who are not practicing appropriate physical distancing; you are encouraged to contact your local police department or the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or online by visiting opp.ca/reporting.

For a complete list of all Township service provision reductions, please go to: www.mindenhills.ca/covid-19-information/

County considers how to help with COVID-19 recovery

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Haliburton County councillors discussed the possible creation of a COVID-19 recovery team during an April 22 meeting.

It had been more than a month since county councillors convened after regular meetings were suspended amid the pandemic.

Councillors took part in Wednesday's meeting remotely using the digital teleconferencing platform Zoom, with the meeting broadcast on the county's YouTube channel.

One of the agenda items at that meeting was the potential creation of some kind of group that would oversee recovery from the impacts of the pandemic in the county.

"I've put quite a bit of thought into this, and I haven't really come out to any conclusions," said Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Daniels.

Danielsen suggested that strategies for assisting tourism operators was something a county-level recovery team might look at, and noted there is work being done in that capacity within the tourism department.

"One thing in particular we could work on is how we might work with the tourism industry, because we do have a tourism department," she said.

In a recent update to the county's tourism stakeholders, tourism director Amanda Virtanen wrote, "I assure you that we are working on a recovery plan which considers a number of factors and includes a variety of partners. We're pulling in every resource we have; from Next Factor [a consulting firm doing work on behalf of the county] to OHTO [Ontario Highlands' Tourism Organization] to CTA [Culinary Tourism Alliance] (many discussions have included potential funding from upper levels of government for specific projects). Accommodators, experience providers and all of you working in [and] across our tourism pillars – will be part of this plan."

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt thought the county needed to first wait for direction from the province before creating any kind of recovery team.

"I think we need to wait for some kind of provincial framework first, so we are in alignment with that," Moffatt said. She also expressed some concern about the composition of such a group, and how it could adequately represent the community without becoming too large to function effectively.

"Who would be on it?" she said. "How do you ensure full representation?" Moffatt noted, for example, that not everyone in the construction industry is represented by the Haliburton County Home Builders' Association.

"You don't want to leave anybody out, but you could wind up with a committee of 40 people, and that's never going to be successful," Moffatt said.

Both Minden Hills Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell and Mayor Brent Devolin suggested that the creation of any sort of recovery team might be more suitable at the lower-tier level of each of the county's four municipalities.

"I think it's a little bit early for us to strike up any committees, and I think a lot of it will come from the province, but that each municipality may have different things that need to be done as well," Schell said. "I think it'll probably happen at that level."

"I think a good chunk of it will be at the lower tier," said Devolin.

There was consensus that it made sense to wait until further direction from the province, and the issue will remain a standing item on county council's agenda.

“

One thing in particular we could work on is how we might work with the tourism industry.

—COUNTY WARDEN
LIZ DANIELSEN

”

Continue to seek medical attention if you need it, HHHS CEO says

from page 1

areas to our more vulnerable long-term care residents," Carolyn Plummer, CEO and president of HHHS, said in a community update dated April 24.

Residents and staff at Hyland Crest in Minden and Highland Wood in Haliburton have their temperatures taken twice a day and Plummer said physical distancing and personal protective equipment is also used.

"We are also moving forward with increased testing for every long-term care resident and staff member, as mandated [last] week by the government of Ontario," she said.

As was previously reported, HHHS moved to limit where staff at its long-term care homes could work as of late March. The province has since issued an order that staff at those homes only work at one location to limit the potential spread of the virus.

Plummer also used her weekly update

to urge those who need medical attention, whether COVID-19 related or not, to continue to come to HHHS.

"HHHS and our local health-care partners have been working diligently to ensure that we can manage the COVID-19 pandemic while still providing high-quality health-care services to the community," she said. "Please do not ignore any health issues you may be having, and seek regular care when needed."

The provincial online self-assessment has broadened the range of symptoms associated with the coronavirus, to include hoarse voice, runny nose, loss of taste or smell, headaches, digestive issues and fatigue. Those completing the assessment online may be prompted to visit an assessment centre and there is one in Haliburton. Go to Ontario.ca/coronavirus or call 1-866-767-0000 for the assessment. If prompted to go to an assessment centre, you must first make an appointment at the Haliburton Family Medical Centre at 705-457-1212 and press 6.

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MH council meetings go digital

by **CHAD INGRAM**
Times Staff

Minden Hills council held its first remote meeting using digital teleconferencing platform Zoom on April 28, and the plan is for regular committee-of-the-whole and council meetings to be held digitally beginning in May.

The purpose of Wednesday's meeting was to amend the township's procedural bylaw to allow councillors to participate in meetings remotely using technology, a capability that was extended to municipalities by the provincial government as an emergency measure during the COVID-19 pandemic. The link for the live streams, broadcast on YouTube, will

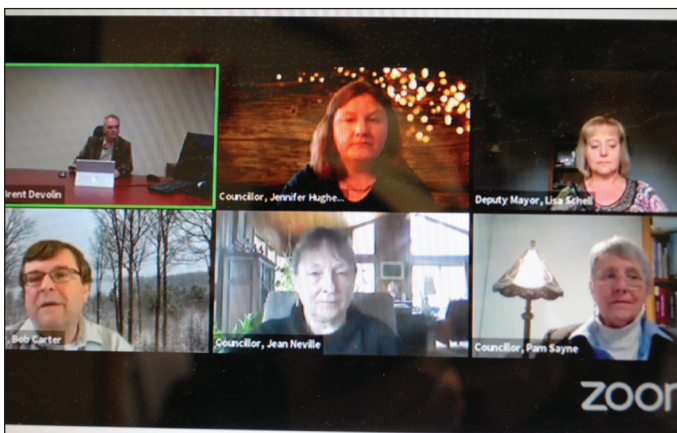
be published on the township's website and on agendas. Residents who plan to observe meetings are encouraged to download the agendas ahead of time, as agendas will not be displayed as part of the live stream.

Clerk Vicki Bull and Mayor Brent Devolin thanked the county's IT department and other staff for facilitating the process and training for staff and council.

"A huge thank you," Devolin said. "This is a brave new world that we're in . . . not only technicalities, but basically creating new law both municipally and provincially in this. This is a mountain of work, that in a few weeks, we've been able to do."

"Our intention is in the month of May, with council and committee-of-the-whole, to be basically, relatively as we can, back to business," Devolin said.

Minden Hills council held a meeting April 28 via online teleconferencing platform Zoom, with the meeting broadcast on YouTube. Councillor Ron Nesbitt (not pictured) joined by telephone. /CHAD INGRAM Staff



Schools adapting as closure extended

by **JENN WATT**
Editor

School staff have been adapting quickly to changes to the education system, and continue to work through challenges distance learning presents, a spokesperson for Trillium Lakelands District School Board said.

On Sunday, the provincial government extended the closure of publicly funded schools to May 31 in order to protect the safety of students and staff, which means the ongoing home learning efforts will need to continue for at least another month.

"From a staff perspective we believe things are going well," said Catherine Shedden, communications manager for TLDSB. "Support from our technology services department has been ongoing and ranges from repairs to devices to training in online programs. This is new territory for many teachers, and indeed for the system as a whole. New challenges are met with concentrated discussion and problem-solving."

A survey was sent out to parents last week to gather their perspective with results to be shared by the board this week.

"There are multiple encouraging stories being shared over social media by schools and educators across the board. This week we hope to begin a video series of helpful mental health and well-being tips for parents," she said.

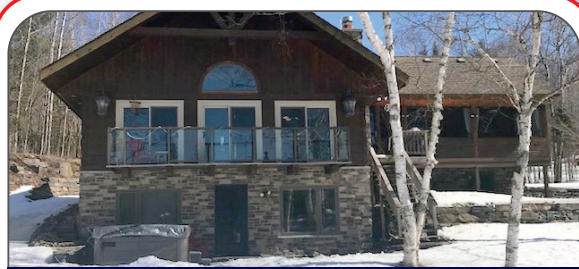
Distributing technology to students who

don't have access has been one of the ways the board is assisting families through the Learn@Home program. Although earlier this month the provincial government announced a partnership with Apple and Rogers that would provide iPads to students without access, Shedden said it primarily benefited boards closer to the GTA.

"For TLDSB we have worked to ensure that devices are available to those prioritized to receive them – in particular students with special needs, students from grades 7 to 10 using the digital backpack Edwin program, students in grades 11 and 12, and students enrolled in ongoing dual credit programs," she said. "We have also emphasized with teaching staff that home learning is not necessarily an online learning program. There are other ways to deliver instruction for in-home learning. We are beginning a process this Tuesday of weekly delivery of printed materials to homes where internet access is not possible."

More than 300 homes within the wider school board region do not have internet access and are having printed materials delivered.

"Since the last provincial extension [of the school closure] we have deployed almost all of our support staff to assist in the delivery of learning to students at home – this includes our secretaries, clerks, educational [assistants], and now with the delivery of paper materials, our maintenance staff," Shedden said.



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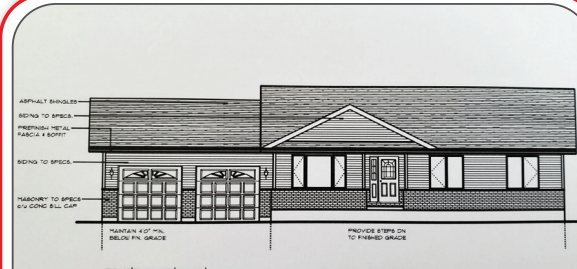


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New normal

IT'S SATURDAY afternoon and I'm walking along our rural road with my daughter.

I'm pulling the wagon she started the voyage in, but now it's empty and she is running along beside me, pointing out birds, collecting rocks, and generally observing the changes the emerging spring is bringing to the county's wilderness.

She stops to throw twigs into the moving water of the ditch, and I let her do that for as long as she wants, because we have nowhere to be. She starts using her rocks to etch in the dirt and I let her do that for as long as she wants, because we have nothing to do, really, besides make dinner later. It takes us nearly an hour to make a round trip of maybe a kilometre or so.

A walk quite so leisurely wouldn't have been the case before the pandemic, when our life was busy, to the point of hectic at times. Now, there are seemingly endless hours to spend exploring our tiny segment of the world.

COVID-19 will leave in its wake a number of legacies, good and bad, and perhaps one of them, for some of us, will be the ability to slow down more, to be more fully in the moment. The pandemic will leave behind myriad changes, ones that are impossible to see clearly yet, while still in the throes of dealing with the coronavirus outbreak itself. Certainly in Ontario, it seems evident that one of those changes will be a total overhaul of the system for long-term care homes. It also seems evident that one of the virus's legacies will be the way we work; that is, more working

from home, which our advanced technology allows for many vocations. What about the plexiglass shields that have been installed at checkout counters? Will they become permanent fixtures?

It seems likely that social distancing will become ensconced in our culture to some degree, part of our new normal, whatever that turns out to be. Fewer seats on airplanes, less crowded restaurants and other such things are being suggested, and while some of those changes

might sound nice, they will also make things more expensive for consumers. Will there be less dining out in general? Will there be less international travel?

Human history has been shaped by crisis, often in the form of war or disease. In the 14th century the black

plague killed nearly a third of Europe's population. The Second World War – which in many ways arguably set the stage for what has been our normal for many decades now – killed tens of millions, redrew international boundaries and changed the global power structure.

And while the COVID-19 crisis may not rival these events in terms of scope, it will leave a multi-generational mark. Things will never go back to the way they were, not completely.

It becomes tiresome to think about, and I snap back into the moment, watching Evangeline draw in the dirt. She won't remember what life was like before all of this. Whatever our new normal is will just be normal to her.



CHAD INGRAM
Reporter

Kwarky



“Boss, he’s alive!”

Sleep and the turkey hunt

A FRIEND AND I have a running debate over when the best time to hunt turkeys is: I say you should get out and be set up in the dark before legal shooting time, which is a half hour before sunrise. My friend, who likes his sleep, is not in anywhere near that kind of a rush. He typically runs his hunts during banker's hours.

I have shot turkeys a minute or two after legal and I have shot turkeys mid-day. But I have shot far more and seen far more activity in the early morning. So, given the choice, I prefer to hunt early morning and stay on for as long as my day allows.

The truth, however, is as far as sleeping time goes, there is very little difference. If you are staying in bed and going out later, you are asleep in the early morning. If you go afield in the early morning, you set up your decoys and, if you are like me, immediately doze off as soon as you sit down. So it's six of one and half a dozen of the other.

Which brings me to my point: dozing off is a highly under-rated yet effective way to get your gobbler. And, once we admit it, I predict the next big thing in turkey hunting will be camouflaged pillow cases and nightcaps.

There are reasons why dozing off helps. First, if you are a horrible caller, it keeps your efforts to a minimum and you scare off fewer turkeys. Second, unless you are one of those people who snores or flails wildly in your sleep, it keeps movement down.

Mostly, however, I think animals have a sense of humour when it comes to a sleep-

ing hunter. For instance, I've been woken up by a gobbler sounding off five yards behind me. (Pro tip: Keep a fresh pair of underwear in your vehicle.)

I've also had squirrels and chipmunks run across my pants in their quest for nuts – which, I am pleased to say, they never found.

All this is to say that animals will come very close to investigate what that lump of drooling camouflage actually is, and that can give you the edge, provided you are a person who wakes up with your wits about you.

If you are not easily startled and wake up in a clear-headed, lackadaisical way, all you need to do is slowly reach for your gun and take the shot. Then go back to sleep if you want.

No one will know the tactic you used to get that bird, so you can tell any story you want. Heck, you won't even be lying if you say that you

stayed still and quiet, called sparingly and let it get in close.

If you are worried this will ruin your reputation, all you need to do is clean the sleep out of your eyes and the drool from the corner of your mouth before you take the celebratory photos. I can tell you from personal experience this also works when duck, goose or deer hunting.

The point is just because you get up early to be out in the field doesn't mean you need to lose out on sleep.

I'm not saying I follow this advice all the time. But I will say I was able to harvest my best gobbler because I stayed still and quiet, called sparingly and let it get in close.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Time to fix the RCMP

THE PRIME MINISTER was right on cue. Out in front of the microphone and cameras, promising more gun control in the wake of the Nova Scotia massacres.

He said the government had been on the verge of banning assault-style weapons but was interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic.

It was interesting that he appeared to link the Nova Scotia killings and assault weapons. The RCMP had not said what type of weapon was used in the murderous rampage. In fact, it hadn't said much at all about the most horrific Canadian mass murder in modern times.

It took the force's senior management almost a week to give the public any details of the massacres, including a vague reference to the killer having a pistol and long guns.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

The RCMP's failure to properly inform the public throughout this incident is indicative of the dysfunction within the federal police force.

That dysfunction has been obvious for years, yet the force's senior management and their federal government political bosses have failed to take action or even acknowledge it.

The Nova Scotia mass killings, which included the shooting of RCMP constable Heidi Stevenson, a 48-year-old mother of two, once again reflect the problems within the RCMP and the consequences on its members and the public.

Three years ago, the force was found guilty of failing to provide its officers with proper use-of-force equipment and training. That labour code charge was laid after five officers were gunned down by a madman in Moncton, N.B. in June 2014. Three of the officers died.

That tragedy followed the shooting deaths of four RCMP officers by another madman in Mayerthorpe, Alberta in 2005. There were calls for a judicial inquiry to find answers to safety questions raised by that incident, but they were ignored.

For years now the RCMP has been accused by its own members of bullying, sexual harassment, failure to provide proper training and equipment and of incompetence in the senior ranks. RCMP leadership and governing politicians have said either not much is wrong, or that they are studying the situation.

Urgent action is needed before more officers are driven half-crazy by harassment, or forced to quit because of bullying, or are shot because their bosses are either uncaring or too incompetent to protect them properly.

One ray of hope for change is the Federal Court of Canada certification earlier this year of a \$1.1-billion class action lawsuit against the RCMP, alleging harassment and bullying.

The class action was filed by current and former members of the force. The Federal Court's certification means that the lawsuit can proceed.

That lawsuit should throw considerable light on the turmoil within the RCMP and the reasons for it. Many officers and former officers blame the force's leadership, which is hidebound to decades-old traditions and practices.

Canadians should not have to wait for a costly class action lawsuit to see some action in fixing the long-standing problems within the RCMP. Global News earlier this year estimated that various lawsuits, human rights complaints and other inquiries into RCMP problems have already cost taxpayers \$220 million over the past two decades.

These complaints have been well documented and reported in the media over many years. They are not just whining from malcontents. They are real problems destroying morale and respect and confidence in the police force.

The real shame is that the people hurt most by the force's dysfunction are the people who are not causing it – the frontline officers who diligently do their risky work as commanded by bosses following leadership patterns totally unsuitable for a modern police force.

The frontline officers are the ones who sometimes can't do their jobs properly, or quit because they can't take the toxic working atmosphere or even commit suicide because they have become so depressed.

If I were Justin Trudeau, I would call the entire RCMP leadership into a meeting and ask them to explain why they should not all be fired. I would also refocus my mind to understand that more gun control is a far lesser issue than the dysfunction consuming the RCMP.

The RCMP dysfunction has been evident to both Liberal and Conservative governments. It must be ended to restore Canadians' pride in what once was a national treasure.

Weight loss insights

WE'VE ALL SEEN ads that make weight loss promises. Losing weight is about as individual as our fingerprints. Something that works for one person may or may not work for someone else. Today I am going to share a success story with you. One of my clients lost 10 pounds over the first five weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to tell you that I'm a miracle-worker but the truth is that I only played a small part in the process.

Chris has been struggling with his weight for many years. Like so many he has a busy life. A demanding job, a wife with a demanding job, and three boys between the ages of eight and 13. From what he shares with me his life consists of a long commute to and from work, long days at the office, and then standing in an arena watching one kid on the ice after dropping one kid off at gymnastics and another at a music lesson. He does manage to meet with me once a week for an online workout.

Chris has tried to lose weight before. He would get down a few pounds and then he'd lose momentum and the weight would creep back on. This time he's making some headway. A big factor is that he's having lunch at home and that has removed the temptations of the food court he would visit for lunch during his workday. Specifically, he mentioned the lack of Suzy Q doughnuts in his life these days. These are famous in

Ottawa for their incredible mouth-watering flavours.

In addition to being able to better control what he is eating, he is tracking his calories – religiously. And because there isn't a doughnut in sight he is hitting his calorie targets every day. I know this because; and this is where I have helped out – he reports to me via text on a daily basis.

Chris feels it's those three things – eating at home, tracking calories and accountability that have made the difference this time.

The challenge will be when he heads back to the land of temptation. We are talking now about strategies to set him up for success. Things like taking lunch to work, remaining diligent with tracking his calories and continuing to report on the outcome of his day.

He still has a long weight loss road ahead of him. He has 50 pounds more to lose to get

to a healthy weight. It's amazing that he's used this situation to get started. It's nice to share some good news these days.

As I am writing this we still don't know when the self-isolation will end. There's still time to implement Chris's tips to help you find your way to a healthier you.

Something to think about.

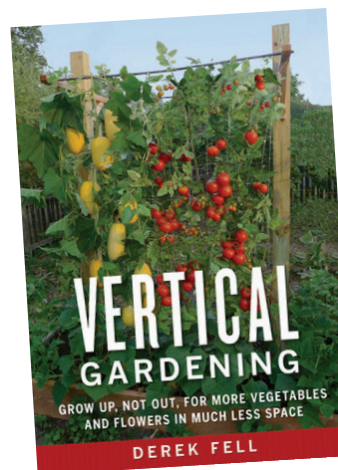
Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.



LAURIE SWEIG

Practical Fitness

Nonfic Pick - April



The biggest mistake most first time gardeners make each season is starting out too big and then quickly realizing their large plot requires too much weeding, watering, and backbreaking labour. Vertical gardening guarantees a better outcome from the day the trowel hits the soil—by shrinking the amount of "floor" space needed and focusing on climbing plants that are less prone to insects, diseases, and animal pests.

Notable author and gardener Derek Fell has tried and tested thousands of varieties of vegetables, flowers, and fruits and recommends the best plants for space-saving vertical gardening. His grow-up, grow-down system also shows which ground-level plants make good companions underneath and alongside climbing plants.

Vertical Gardening features 100 colour photos and showcases beautiful, trouble free perennials, shrubs, vegetables, annuals, and fruit perfect for this new, rewarding way to garden. It is available in ebook format from HCPL. Get it just in time for spring!.



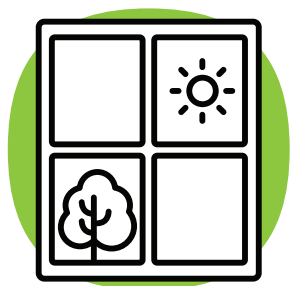
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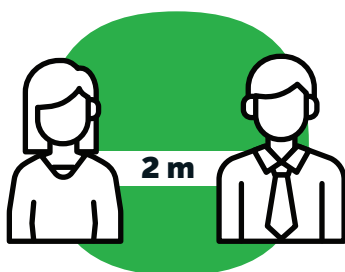
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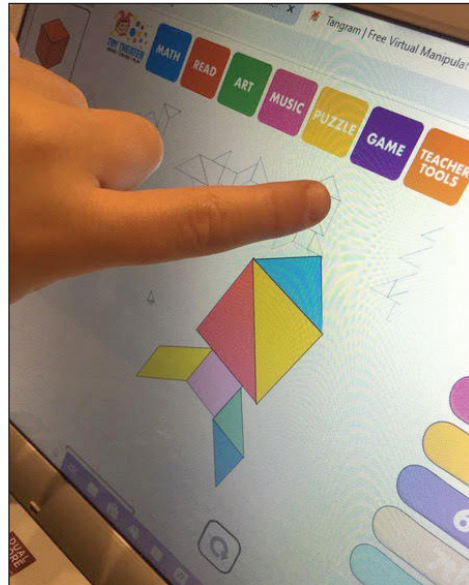


Archie Stouffer Elementary School

Learn@Home program

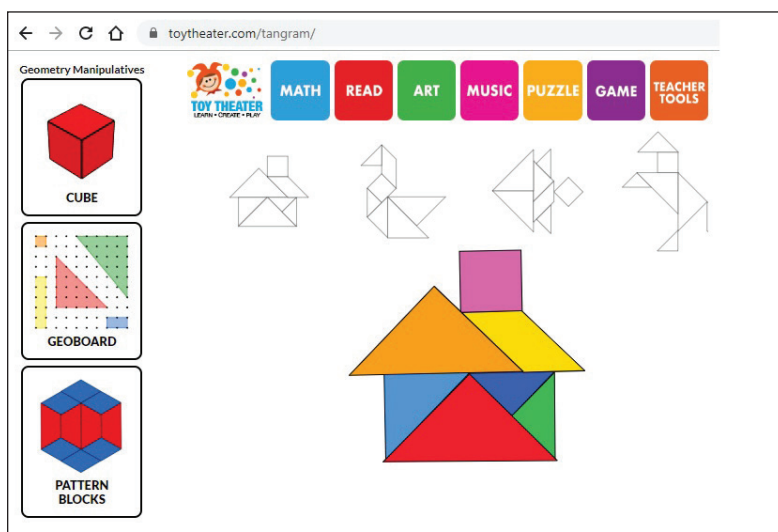
Ms. Henriques's 2/3 class

Earlier this year, Stephanie Henriques's Grade 2/3 class made tangram animals, so she asked them to revisit the ancient Chinese puzzle to see what else they could create. "They were given the option to use digital tangram pieces online (from toytheater.com), or paper tangram pieces, and I surely wasn't disappointed!" she said.



Above, Kelson Bagshaw made a rocket that is out of this world.

Left, Chloe Collins made a beautiful swan.



Cara Hughey built a very charming house.

Ms. Blanchard's 7/8 class

Ms. Blanchard's Grade 7/8's are getting into poetry and why not start the week off with the popular song, *Midnight Oil - Beds Are Burning* by Rob Hirst; Jim Moginie; Peter Garrett. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejorQVy3m8E>

Students were asked to share their thoughts, feelings, etc. and state why Ms. Blanchard would choose this song this week.

Students' Responses:

I think that you picked the song because of the fact that Earth Day is this week and the song says a lot about how we need to pay it back and that we need to pay for our share.

In the song it states that "The time has come to say fair's fair, To pay the rent, to pay our share, The time has come, a fact's a fact, It belongs to them, let's give it back" (stanza 20 - 23). It also says "How can we dance when our earth is turning? How do we sleep while our beds are burning?" throughout the entire song and I believe that it is stating that things are happening and they are wondering how we do our day to day things without noticing it.

By Sienna Inglis

I think this song was chosen for this week because the world is in a really difficult place right now and the lyrics kind of say that throughout the song. I think a lot of people

are feeling hopeless and scared during a time like this and this song talks about how sometimes you just can't do things or you don't know about things.

In the lyrics, "How can we dance when our earth is turning, how do we sleep when our beds are burning?", I think that's probably how a lot of people are feeling. Just kind of feeling like, how can you do things when there's so much going on outside?

By: Maya Johnson

This song is about the removal of Indigenous children from their families and homes. The lyric "How do we sleep while our beds are burning?" talks about how strong Indigenous peoples are. They are able to keep going no matter what people did to them. The song also talks about what is owed them after all that was done saying "It belongs to them, we're gonna give it back."

I think you chose this song because in history we've talked about First Nations peoples and their rights. It also reads very much like a poem which is this unit. Because it's a song though, it has a lot of repetition when you read it.

I think that the lyrics are very meaningful and that it speaks on an important topic that should be talked about. I'm glad that this band supports Indigenous people.

By Nicole Lee

see page 11



Leah Alder made a whole zoo.

Mrs. Little and Ms. Hewitt's kindergarten class

This is some of the learning from Mrs. Little and Ms. Hewitt's kindergarten class. They want to thank families for helping their children to continue learning, with lots of inquiry, mindfulness and outdoor play. Some of these photos are in response to activities that they have posted, and others are examples of learning that has been "sparked" by a kindergarten student and have been shared for us to learn about together.

Addie took her family for a walk through the forest and showed them all of their favourite places, others do "bubble breathing" to be mindful.

Nathan H. and his sister Mackenna built an outdoor fort, and River built an indoor fort

for Ms. Hewitt's challenge.

Roan drew and labelled pictures of her favourite parts of the classroom for Writer's Workshop.

Ava is making her own word wall.

Baylee is trying a friend's math challenge.

Emery is growing an avocado seed and keeping a journal.

Nolan and his brother Clark are growing their first garden.

Nathan W. cleaned up the Earth and Cohen drew a picture of things he was thinking about on Earth Day.

Libby and Kienan made tally charts of things they saw outside their houses so they could compare.



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Mrs. Tokar, Ms. Vilela, & Ms. McGovern's kindergarten class

The K-D kindergarten class at Archie Stouffer Elementary School are really excited to contribute/share some of our on-line learning activities that have been taking place in our inside and outside environments. We are doing an inquiry about spring, learning to count - on with numbers, creating healthy/nutritious snacks, and we are discovering how we can make a difference by taking care of our earth and making projects from recycled materials.



Laine's healthy dinosaur snack.



Maddie's two-levelled bird feeder.



Making a difference.



Katie's number line.



Avery's painting.



Archie Stouffer Elementary School

Learn@Home program

Mrs. Tokar, Ms. Vilela, & Ms. McGovern's Kindergarten class



Danielle's bird feeder



Chase's project.



Elsie's planting.

Ms. Blanchard's 7/8 class

from page 9

I think this song is about humans destroying the earth and natural resources and how we have to pay it back. I feel this song is protesting about the destruction of the earth and trying to spread the word. I think this is a really cool way to spread the word about this subject. I think the reason you chose this song is because of Earth Day this week. I think that the lyrics are saying not to destroy the earth and give back to it. Overall this is a song with a great message but I wouldn't listen to it again.

By Alissa Mantle

I disliked this song. Found it hard to listen to but at the same time the message was good. I found it easier to read the words then listen to the song. I think Ms Blanchard picked this song because of the times we are going through with COVID-19. People are having a hard time and thinking about paying rent. We are giving the world back to animals and mother nature because people are not destroying it with pollution right now. Lyrics are talking about things burning and changing around them. Giving the world back.

By Owen Mercer

I think this song could possibly be about how we are killing the earth and populating it because the lyrics say "Out where the river broke The bloodwood and the desert oak Holden wrecks and boiling diesels Steam in forty-five degrees". Which is saying that while it's already forty-five degrees out people are making it hotter. And the song is saying that we have to act now and try to save our earth and make it better. I think this because it says "The time has come, a fact's a fact It belongs to them, let's give it back". Saying we need to give the earth what it needs. I also think this because it repeats "How can we dance when our earth is turning?" I don't know if that's what the song is actually about but if it's not I think it could be. The earth is dying because of us and we need to act now to save it and all wildlife and nature. We killed the earth for the future people. I think this song is good. It made we realize that we are polluting the earth and are just watching it happen. I like it as a song because it's upbeat and has a good tune.

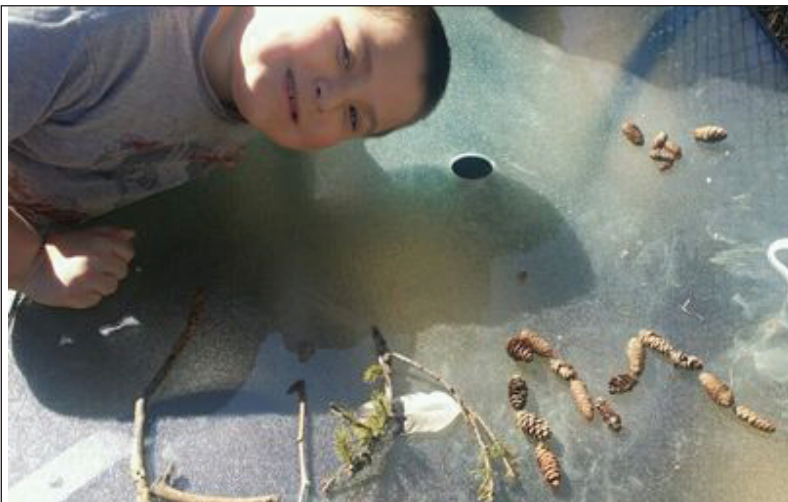
By Sofie Mills

Mrs. Pilgrim's class

This week students in Mrs. Pilgrim's class were asked to consider ways they can help

the earth. They were also asked to create their name from natural objects.

Liam Hie made his name.



Si Meier is working on a family farm with calves - they love being bottle fed and playing peek-a-boo.



Tenley Logan and her nature artwork.



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Province to re-open economy in stages

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

The provincial government announced Monday that it will re-open Ontario's economy in stages, but only after receiving advice from its top medical advisors that it is safe to do so.

The Ford government declared a state of emergency amid the COVID-19 crisis on March 17, and on March 24, ordered all businesses deemed non-essential to close. The list of essential businesses permitted to continue operating was then downsized in early April.

On Monday, Premier Doug Ford unveiled the staged approach the government would use in re-opening the economy, however, that

announcement came with no specific dates attached to it. The approach will use three stages, but it is as yet unclear which type of businesses would be allowed to re-open at which stage.

"To reopen the economy, we will consider factors such as the risk as the spread of COVID-19 and the ability to implement protective and preventative measures in the workplace," reads a press release from the province. It notes that before the re-opening will begin, the government wants to see "a consistent two- to four-week decrease in the number of new daily COVID-19 cases."

On Monday, the province had experienced its third consecutive day of decreased new cases of the virus, however on Tuesday, new cases increased, with 525 new cases announced.

"There will be two to four weeks between the launch of each stage to allow health officials to assess conditions before moving to the next one," the release reads. "This will determine if measures should be adjusted, loosened or tightened. This approach will enable the government to ensure there are appropriate measures in place to open safely and limit health risks. Everyday actions to protect your health, like physical distancing, frequent hand washing and staying home when ill, will continue through each stage."

The release indicates that at the first stage, the government will consider: "opening se-

lect workplaces that can meet current public health guidelines; allowing essential gatherings of a limited number of people; opening some outdoor spaces; and continued protections for vulnerable populations."

At the second stage, it will consider: "opening more workplaces with significant mitigation plans; opening more public spaces; allowing some larger public gatherings; continued protections for vulnerable populations."

At the third stage, it will consider: "opening all workplaces responsibly; relaxing restrictions on public gatherings; continued protections for vulnerable populations."

There was some criticism on Monday that the government's announcement did not include specific timelines.

"This is a road map, not a calendar," Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade Vic Fedeli said, with that message reiterated by Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott on Twitter.

"It's important that we stay the course and adhere to the advice of our health care experts to keep on track in the fight against COVID-19 and get on the path to recovery," Scott wrote. Scott, along with a number of cabinet colleagues, has been appointed to the Ontario Jobs and Recovery Committee.

“
It is important that we stay
the course and adhere to
the advice of our
health-care experts.
— MINISTER LAURIE SCOTT
”

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7					3			
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Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 14

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

ETFO votes to ratify agreement with province

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario has announced that its members have voted to ratify an agreement with the provincial government, the Ontario Public School Board Association, and the Council of Trustees' Associations.

Elementary school teachers had been working without a contract since last summer, and escalating job action including rotating strikes had been ongoing throughout the school year. ETFO and the Ford government had reached a tentative deal in mid-March, and on April 28, the union announced its members had voted overwhelmingly in support of that agreement. Ninety-seven per cent of teachers and occasional teachers voted in support of the deal, which will last until 2022, and 94 per cent of ETFO's educational workers supported it.

According to ETFO, one highlight is that a Supports for Students Fund that preserves 100 per cent of special education and priority funding that was negotiated in 2017 will remain intact. Another is that the current kindergarten model will be preserved throughout the life of the contract. "Elementary class size language in local collective agreements is preserved and there will be no class size increases during the life of the agreement," a release from ETFO reads. "Professional development/learning funds for education workers are increased and sustainable fund-

ing for member benefits will continue." ETFO locals will now work with their school boards to negotiate local collective agreements.

"Throughout this process our goal has been to negotiate agreements that are fully-funded, fair, and fiscally responsible. This agreement will help ensure a stable and productive learning environment for our students," OPSBA president Cathy Abraham said in a release. "Despite the many challenges caused by the current pandemic situation, all of the parties continued to work towards reaching a deal that will help to bring some stability to our system during what is obviously a rapidly evolving situation. I want to personally thank the OPSBA negotiating teams, which consist both of OPSBA staff and school board directors and senior staff, for their commitment to this process. They often worked late into the night over many weekend to achieve this agreement."

"For the education workers component of this negotiation, the Council of Trustees' Associations is a partnership between OPSBA and the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)," the release from the OPSBA explained.

Publicly funded schools in Ontario have been closed since the March break amid the COVID-19 crisis and the government announced this past weekend they will remain closed until at least the end of May.

All four education unions in the province have now reached tentative agreements with the government.

Online yoga fundraiser continues into May

by JENN WATT
Editor

After the success of Online for our Frontline, a yoga fundraiser for Haliburton Highlands Health Services, instructor Gail Holness said she's continuing her efforts in May, this time raising money for the food bank.

In April, Holness started hosting online yoga sessions based at Quantum Passivhaus in Minden. Donations of \$20 would provide access to one session and \$50 would give access for the month. HHHS received \$2,000

from the fundraiser.

Feedback from participants led Holness to continue the campaign into May, this time focused on the food bank.

"I am thrilled with what we achieved for HHHS but I think we are going to raise even more money for our food bank and money is what they need," she wrote in an email to participants.

In May she will also be teaching a chair yoga for seniors class and has included a "yoga on the go" session.

For more information, go to holnessyoga.ca.

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Minden Health Care Auxiliary celebrates 20 years

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

Twenty years ago, Gordon Monk mentioned to his wife Donna that Minden’s new hospital would have space for a gift shop, and perhaps she could think about organizing an auxiliary to help make it run in support of health services.

“I was just ripe for the plucking,” laughs Donna, as she remembers back to having been newly retired from a busy life in the funeral industry.

She agreed to think about Gordon’s suggestion, met with five friends in August, and just weeks later on the first of September in 2000, was ready for the gift shop’s opening alongside those friends and about 10 to 15 of their friends, ready to work as the Minden Health Care Auxiliary.

“I’m afraid it was largely by the seat of our pants, because we didn’t have very much time to think about it, as you can imagine,” said Monk. “We put it together in August and it started Sept. 1 ... everything opened on September the first, and we did too. Each of [the six original members] donated \$500 to kickstart our auxiliary, so we kind of went out and tried to find people who did handiwork, and that type of thing, and then we went to hardware stores to see what we could scrounge there, and we managed to put together not too bad a showing. But we of course eventually just kept adding to it.”

While the auxiliary worked to be ready to move in, the gift shop itself was not as ready as they were.

“So as you can likely imagine, there was some scrambling done to try and put this together, on top of which, the day of – that morning – we had some trouble getting in there, because the carpenters were doing some finishing up,” said Monk. And then, laughing at the memory: “It was flying by the seat of our pants, believe me.”

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Minden Health Care Auxiliary, built on the quick efforts of Monk and fellow founding members Corinne Arsenault, Norma Nobles, Fern Donnelly, Katie Parker and Bonnie Fleischaker, and building over two decades, with about 50 members now, many of whom have dedicated themselves to the auxiliary for almost two decades.

“Of course, a number of the originals are no longer with us, so we do have quite a few newer members, a lot of whom are, I think, likely original cottagers but have come up to live,” said Monk.

You’ve seen the results of their efforts – of the gift shop, bowlathons, galas, teas, card parties, bake sales, theatre performances, tag days, Christmas sales, and of course, the wheelbarrow filled with 48 bottles of wine raffle – in the form of equipment and furnishings for long-term care lounges, upgraded lighting and mattresses in the emergency room, a bariatric scale and i-Stat Blood Analyser, a bone density machine: more than can be acknowledged with placards noting the group’s efforts. The galas – about seven held between 2010 and 2017, raised about \$10,000 each. The group raised \$40,000 for a medication dispensing unit at the Minden hospital.

“The government gives money periodically to health services for various things, but not for some of the smaller things, which are a comfort to, I’d like to think, not only our doctors ... but also people coming into the hospital,” said Monk. “We now have a bone density machine for instance, because up until that time, up until recently, we had to go to Lindsay or Peterborough for that. There are a number of things like that that we’ve managed to bring here so people are able to access that within the community, which we feel is very helpful and very important.”

Everyone in the community has used the services of the hospital or long-term care centres, or knows someone who has – “it touches people at some point in their lives,” said Monk – and she said the auxiliary has appreciated the community’s support, whether that be through buying raffle tickets, making gift shop purchases or making donations – both financial donations as well as in the form of supplies for the gift shop.

“People have donated things they have very kindly made, spent their time and money to purchase materials, made them and donated them to us, so we’ve been very fortunate with that,” said Monk, listing knit baby clothes and blankets, quilts, even baked goods. “People were just super about saying, here, this is for the shop, this is for you. We felt so fortunate that people did this. Again, part of our very giving community, I find.”



In 2015, the Minden Health Care Auxiliary honoured its dedicated members, presenting 15-year pins to Donna Monk, left, Winn Taylor, Marilyn Burrows and 10-year pins to Marie Lennard, Marian Gillanders, Mary Trumble, and Carol Hussul. Absent for the photo were 15-year pin recipients Irene Alexander, Corrine Arsenault, Hector Arsenault, Ruth Hamilton, Billie Schuyler and Irma Walker. /DARREN LUM Staff

Photos of countless cheque presentations by the Minden Health Care Auxiliary to staff at Haliburton Highlands Health Services have been published in this paper, celebrating the efforts of the auxiliary toward HHHS needs. Like this one: a presentation in 2016 of \$25,000 to help create two compassionate care suites at Hyland Crest. From left are auxiliary vice-president Marie Lennard, president Mickey Bonham, Ollie Rome, Judith McNeilage, past-president Val du Manoir, Hyland Crest director of care April DeCarlo and HHHS CEO Carolyn Plummer. /CHAD INGRAM Staff



Carolyn Plummer, CAO of Haliburton Highlands Health Services, congratulated the Minden Health Care Auxiliary on the upcoming milestone anniversary, and said that on behalf of HHHS, she appreciated the efforts put forth every day by the auxiliary, recognizing “the unique and invaluable contribution that they make to improving our local health-care system.”

Plummer said the overall contribution of the auxiliary is pivotal in helping HHHS improve the experience for patients, clients, residents and those who care for them, and besides the group’s fundraising efforts made particular note of direct support offered by the auxiliary for patients, clients and residents, as well as visitors.

“Auxiliary members are often the first faces that people see when they enter our facilities, and they always have a warm, welcoming smile and words of support that help to ease suffering and brighten everyone’s day,” said Plummer.

Monk said there is much to be proud of, including the 2012 Warden’s Award shared with the Haliburton Auxiliary, as the Minden Health Care Auxiliary prepares to celebrate 20 years of service, but most cherished the community effort of the group.

“I would have to go back to the friends I’ve made, and the connections I’ve made, and the fact that, when we needed them, so many of the community, and all of our friends, came together to make sure this thing worked,” said Monk. “I’m very proud of that fact and very, very appreciative of it, because without them, it would not have worked.”

While the gift shop is currently closed and fundraising efforts on hold due to the current safety measures in place because of the novel coronavirus pandemic, donations to the Minden Health Care Auxiliary can be e-transferred to min-denhc@gmail.com.

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Darren Lum Times star

Conservative incumbent Barry Devolin with wife Ursula, at left, celebrate after learning the Harper government won a convincing majority in the 2011 federal election at the Captain's Restaurant in Lindsay on Monday evening, May 2.

Barry Devolin wins the riding

Conservative MP joyous
over party's majority

Lisa Gervais
Special to the Times

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock followed the nation's blue and orange voting trend Monday, delivering Conservative MP Barry Devolin a fourth victory and NDP candidate Lyn Edwards close to a quarter of the vote.

The usually reserved Devolin pumped his fist in celebration at Captain's Restaurant outside

of Lindsay at about 10 p.m. May 2 when CBC broadcast that his party had secured a majority

His assistant, Jamie Schmale, introduced Devolin as the re-elected MP and next Speaker of the House of Commons when he called him to a small stage amid uproarious applause and

see MAJORITY page

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We have utilized two of our North American manufacturing plants to build ventilators and masks. We sourced material from our extensive supply chains and have been able to start production of both much more quickly than other manufacturers.

The dealer groups, along with the plants, rallied together to send their existing stock of PPE to those who need it.

Staying in business as long as GM has means taking the good with the bad. Whether it's economic prosperity or economic hardships, we always need to take care of people. Without them, the company has nothing. When a country is in need, we need to be ready to help however we can. GM recognizes this, as does everyone here at Curry Chevrolet. We hope everyone stays safe and we will beat this.

Sincerely,
Your friends at Curry Chevrolet



CURRY CHEVROLET
5065 HALIBURTON CTY RD 21,
HALIBURTON
705 457 2100

THOMAS BUICK GMC LTD
100 UNIVERSITY AVE. W,
COBOURG
866 576 5881

PARRY SOUND CHEVROLET
BUICK GMC
80 JOSEPH STREET,
PARRY SOUND, ONTARIO
705 996 0893

DESIGNED BY THE HALIBURTON ECHO - STACEY POTLIVO, STAFF